

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

ITEM

6

DECISION

TOPIC Land Management Projects

1. Management Agreement – Green Island WMA – Roger Keil

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested to enter into a management agreement with Roger Keil. This management agreement would provide the DNR with the authority to regulate hunting, trapping and trespassing on approximately 100 acres of land located in Jackson County adjacent to the Green Island Wildlife Management Area.

The DNR is authorized by Iowa Code section 481A.6 to establish game management areas on private land with the consent of the owner, which has been provided by Roger Keil.

This tract is nearly surrounded by a designated refuge within the wildlife area. Past experience has shown that the added control of hunting this management agreement will provide will significantly enhance waterfowl management on the surrounding public land.

This agreement will allow the DNR to post and regulate hunting, trapping and trespassing on the tract during the annual waterfowl hunting seasons. This tract was under a similar agreement from 1978 to 2003. Ownership has changed since that agreement expired. This agreement would be for a 25 year period.

Staff recommends approval of the management agreement.

2. Grant of Easements – Missouri River – US Army Corps of Engineers

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested to grant five easements to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the purpose of Missouri River Recovery. These five properties are owned and managed by the DNR's Wildlife Bureau and are located adjacent to the Missouri River in Fremont, Mills, Harrison, Monona and Woodbury Counties.

The Wildlife Bureau has worked closely with the Corps on the design plans and are in full agreement with this restoration effort. The purpose is to widen the river and create sandbar habitat to meet the needs of the Missouri River Biological Opinion in developing habitat for the endangered pallid sturgeon. The DNR feels that these efforts are also beneficial for other river species. The Wildlife Bureau will monitor these sites and evaluate the effectiveness of each restoration method to determine adaptive management efforts and future projects. Similar work

was completed in 2004. We have evaluated these projects and made adjustments that should allow for greater success.

These easements will be given at no charge to the Corps for the length of 50 years. In exchange, the Corps Missouri River Recovery Program will fund 100% of the restoration costs. The following wildlife areas will be encumbered by the proposed easements: Snyder Bend, Glovers Point, Winnebago Bend, Middle Blenco Bend, Lower Little Sioux (Deer Island), Tyson Bend, Nottleman Island, Copland Bend and Nebraska Bend.

Staff recommends approval of the five easements.

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